PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION DIRECTIVE

| ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER | | DATE | January 09, 2019 |
|-----------------------|----------|------------|------------------|
| MOTOR CARRIER MATTER | | DOCKET NO. | 2018-346-C |
| UTILITIES MATTER | ✓ | ORDER NO. | |
| | | | |

SUBJECT:

<u>DOCKET NO. 2018-346-C</u> - <u>Application of Horry Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Georgetown and Marion Counties for Purposes of Receiving Federal Connect America Fund ("CAF") Phase II <u>Support</u> - Staff Presents for Commission Consideration the Motion for Expedited Review and Approval of Application Filed on Behalf of Horry Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated.</u>

COMMISSION ACTION:

HTC (formerly known as Horry Telephone Cooperative) is seeking designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (or "ETC") in certain areas of the AT&T and Frontier services areas of Marion and Georgetown Counties.

HTC participated in the FCC's Connect America Fund II (or "CAF II") Auction 903 and was deemed a winning bidder for 80 locations in three census block groups in Marion and Georgetown Counties -- the "Funded Areas". HTC is currently a CLEC in Georgetown County and is in the process of applying to expand its authority to provide service as a CLEC in AT&T-South Carolina's service area in Marion County. In order to receive the CAF funding, HTC must be designated as an ETC in the Funded Areas by February 25, 2019. The Company would receive \$233,490 over a ten-year period to build a network capable of delivering 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up broadband to the 80 locations in the Funded Areas. In addition to broadband services, customers will also be provided voice grade access to the Public Switched Telephone Network.

HTC has provided sworn testimony in support of its application, and requests that the matter be decided by the Commission at its earliest opportunity in a regularly scheduled agenda session. ORS does not object to proceeding in this manner, and does not object to the Company's original or amended Application.

There have been no objections to HTC receiving ETC designation in these areas and I believe that it would be in the best interest of the citizens of South Carolina for HTC to be granted ETC designation in these areas. Therefore I move that HTC be granted ETC designation in the requested areas and the hearing scheduled for January 23, 2019, be cancelled.

| PRESIDING: Rand | <u>all</u> | | | 9 | SESSION: <u>F</u> | <u>Regular</u> | TIME: | 2:00 p.m. |
|-----------------|------------|----|-------|---|-------------------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| MOTIC | N YES ✓ | NO | OTHER | | | | | |

| | ✓ | |
|----------|----------|--|
| ✓ | ✓ | |
| | | |

(SEAL) RECORDED BY: <u>J. Schmieding</u>

